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extent in helping Harijans in that for a land costing Rs. 10,000, the Harijans paid only Rs. 2,000 and the Government waived the recovery of the balance of Rs. 8,000.

SRI M. DHARMALINGAM : One of the difficulties facing the Harijans is the housing problem and I am proud to say that the Government are taking adequate steps to provide them with house-sites. In spite of the attempts of the Government, 75 per cent of Harijans have not yet been provided with house-sites even after some of them paying the reasonable market value of the land, and I think this is due to insufficiency of staff. Will the Government consider the desirability of appointing one or more Assistant Welfare Officers of the grade of Tahsildars and Revenue Inspectors to expedite the disposal of applications for house-sites?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : Wherever the Collectors of Districts have recommended, we have provided the District Welfare Officers with increased staff. Particularly in Chingleput district, we have increased the staff by appointing a special overseer, some clerks, etc.

SRI M. JAGANNATHAN : If it is the policy of the Government to grant house-sites to Harijans free of cost, may I know why advances were collected from the Harijans of Dasarpuram?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : The main question relates to Elangianoor village. I do not know whether I should answer this question. I have no objection to answer, but I leave it to you, Mr. Speaker.

* 3138 *Q.*—SRI A. MUTHUSWAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) why house-sites have not been allotted to the Harijans of Dasarpuram in Tirukkoyilur taluk, though they have already paid their respective shares towards the cost of the sites; and

(*b*) when the house-sites will be made ready for their use?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : (*a*) & (*b*) The Collector proposed the acquisition of house-sites for the Harijans of Dasarpuram cheri which is within the limits of Tirukoilur Class I Panchayat. Under the existing policy, the funds of the Harijan Welfare Department should not be utilised on the provision of house-sites in Class I Panchayats and in such cases the Government can undertake acquisition only if either the Panchayat Board or the Harijans concerned bear the entire cost of acquisition The Harijans have contributed Rs. 2,990 and the total cost of acquisition is estimated at Rs. 10,225. The Government have however agreed as a special case to meet the balance of the cost of acquisition in this case. Acquisition proceedings have been instituted and the Collector will allot sites to Harijans after acquisition proceedings are completed.